

Message Text

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R 122115 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

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FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO ALGIERS DAKAR
PARIS RABAT TEL AVIV TRIPOLI FROM TUNIS 3 APRIL REPEATED

QTE TUNIS 1792

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, SG, XF

DEPARTMENT PASS CAIRO

SUBJECT: SEGHOR DISCUSSES MID EAST

1. SENEGALESE PRESIDENT LEOPOLD SENGHOR LEFT TUNISIA
MARCH 31 AFTER BRIEF 24- HOUR OFFICIAL VISIT. HE MET WITH
PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA FOR ONE AND ONE- HALF HOURS (PRIMARILY,
HE SAID, ON AFRICAN SOCIALISM), ATTENDED A DINNER GIVEN IN
HIS HONOR BY PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA, AND GAVE FIVE- MINUTE
" SOLEMN DECLARATION" ATTENDED BY DIPLOMATIC CORPS SUPPORTING
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EFFORTS OF UNESCO TO "SAVE CARTHAGE".

2. DURING PRESS CONFERENCE MARCH 31, SENGHOR SPENT GREAT DEAL OF TIME ON MIDDLE EAST. HE COMMENTED THT OAU' S "FOUR WISEMAN" HAD MADE GREAT PROGRESS WITH BOTH SIDES, AND WOULD BE RETURNING TO CAIRO AND JERUSALEM. PROBLEM IS THAT ISRAEL HAS NOT MADE NECESSARY PUBLIC STATEMENT OF NON-ANNEXATION OF ANY ARAB TERRITORY. SENGHOR STATED THAT AFTER NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND ARAB STATES, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO HAVE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ALL PALESTINIANS, INCLUDING CITIZENS OF ISRAEL AND ARAB PALESTINIANS WHO ARE MOSLEM OR CHRISTIAN. IDEAL WOULD BE TO HAVE ONE STATE WHERE ALL THESE GROUPS COOPERATED, BUT SENGHOR FEELS TWO OR THREE INTERMEDIATE STEPS WILL BE NECESSARY BEFORE IDEAL OBTAINED.

3. IN RESPONDING TO QUESTION CONCERNING SENEGAL' S PRESENT POSITION CONCERNING MID EAST, SENGHOR SAID THAT LIKE TUNISIA, SENEGAL WAS REALISTIC AND TRIED TO EVALUATE SITUATION BY LOOKING AT ALL SIDES. SENEGAL IS COUNTRY OF DIALOGUE. "WE HAVE EMBASSIES FROM MOST ARAB COUNTRIES, WE HAVE AN ISRAELI EMBASSY, AN EL FATAH OFFICE AND AN OFFICE FOR SOUTH AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS HAS JUST OPENED IN SENEGAL." OUR POSITION IS CLEAR. WE ARE FOR IMMEDIATE BEGINNING OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND ARABS UNDER US TO FIND JUST AND DURABLE PEACE. "BUT WE THINK IT IS GOOD THAT WE ARE NOT BREAK DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS DO NOT MEAN COOPERATION. COOPERATION IS FROZEN, BUT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ARE MAINTAINED IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN DIALOGUE."

4. COMMENT: IT IS BOTH INTERESTING AND UNUSUAL THAT SENGHOR' S PUBLIC DEFENSE RELATION WITH ISRAEL RECEIVED PROMINENT COVERAGE IN OFFICIAL TUNISIAN PRESS. GOT MEDIA HAVE GIVEN WIDE PLAY TO RECENT BLACK AFRICAN BREAKS WITH ISRAEL AND GOT HAS REPORTEDLY PRESSED OTHER AFRICAN LEADERS, INCLUDING MOBUTU, TO FOLLOW SUIT.

5. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF APRIL 3, FONOFF OFFICIAL ALSO UNDERLINED SENGHOR' S PUBLIC RECOGNITION THAT RESOLUTION OF PALESTINIAN PROBLEM IS KEY FACTOR IN ME SETTLEMENT. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BANGUI
COTONOU
DAR ES SALAAM
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